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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 21 NO. 6 JULY 1984

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	July '84	June '84
Labor Force	262,056	270,600
Employment	248,559	256,180
Unemployment	13,497	14,420
Rate (Raw)	5.2	5.3
Rate (S.A.)	5.5	5.4
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.99	$12.91
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.2	43.7
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.5	7.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$11.62	$11.58
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.2	43.5
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	311.7	310.7
Denver (Bimonthly)	349.9	
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.1	+4.1

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In this issue of *Trends* be sure to see this article:

— ES-202 Covered Employment and Wage Data

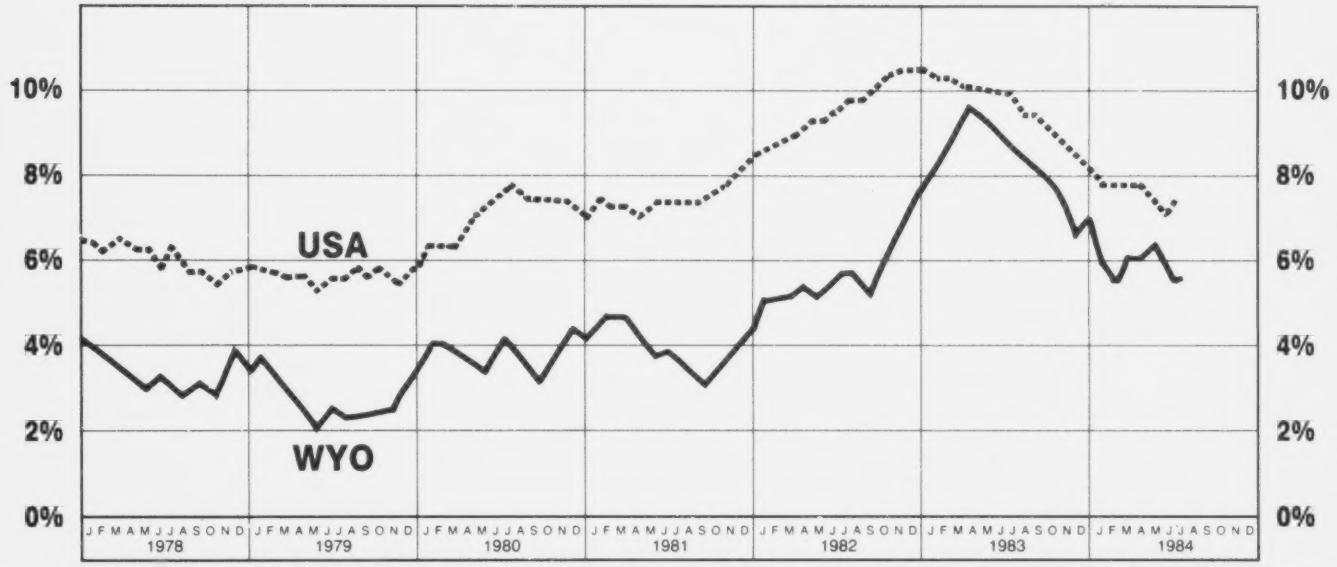
THE NATIONAL TREND

U.S. employment fell and unemployment increased, according to seasonally adjusted data released for July by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The civilian unemployment rate rose four-tenths of a point from June to 7.5 percent. The rate has fallen by 3.2 percent from a high in November 1982, and the number of unemployed has declined by 3.3 million. On the other hand, total employment, as measured by the household survey, fell by 355,000 during the month.

AUGUST'S RATE HOLDS

The recently released national unemployment rate for August remained the same as in July—7.5 percent seasonally adjusted.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S.



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

WYOMING FOLLOWS SUIT

Within the state, July's unadjusted unemployment rate notched down just one-tenth of a percent to 5.2, while the seasonally adjusted rate edged upward a tenth of a percent to 5.5. This lack of fluctuation in the preliminary estimates strongly suggests economic activity is very static. There is one bright spot in the statistics, however, July's unemployment rate is down nearly three full points from the July 1983 estimate of 8.1 percent.

AROUND THE STATE

Fremont County's unemployment was highest, at 8.6 percent and Lincoln County was next with 8.2. Natrona County continued its two year trend of having the most jobless, over 2,300, which represents one out of every six unemployed in the state. Teton County again had the lowest unemployment, as it did in June, at 2.5 percent. Washakie and Crook Counties followed with rates of 2.8 and 2.9 percent respectively.

July's labor force, at 262,100, reflected the normal over the month dip from the June figure of 270,600, due in large part to an easing off of students seeking summer work and graduates seeking full time employment. In July the labor force continues down from a year ago, over 10,400 individuals or four percentage points. This decline is evidenced in 16 out of 23 counties as a tight job market and out-migration of the unemployed continues to shrink the labor force of the Cowboy State. Only Lincoln, Park, and Teton counties indicated annual labor force growth in excess of two percent. Yellowstone Park employment is now included in Park and Teton counties and although 1984 does not appear to be a banner year for tourism, it has given the Cody and Jackson area an economic shot in the arm.

EXPLANATION OF ES-202 COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DATA

Every three months Wyoming employers are required to file a Quarterly Wage and Contribution Report (WYO-47). This report is the source for lots of valuable information including the "State and County Summary of Covered Employment and Total Payrolls by Industry", which is produced by the Research and Analysis Section. It is most often referred to as the Covered Employment Report. Generally the term "covered" means that those companies and their employees are covered by state and federal unemployment insurance tax laws.

The WYO-47 form requests specific information including the number of employees and new hires each month, total wages paid, taxable wages, and a payment for the unemployment insurance taxes owed by that employer for that quarter. What happens to this information and who uses it are two pertinent questions that arise.

The previously mentioned Covered Employment Report is a quarterly publication (an annual summary is also published) that takes five months to compile. It is free and available upon request. Although not totally current, this information is detailed, accurate, and covers the universe instead of just a sample of it. The U.S. Department of Labor estimated that unemployment insurance covered 88.3% of the total civilian employment. The nearly 12% not covered include: all self employeds, many agriculture workers, unpaid family workers, and many elected and appointed government officials.

The report provides a summary of total covered employment, total wages, and average weekly wages. The data is compiled for the entire state, for each county, and by industry. This makes it possible to determine the number of people and total wages paid for any industry in any specific county. This makes it possible for an employer to see if he is paying the industry's average wage to his workers. He can also determine what percent of the total employment his company has in that industry in that county.

Covered employment and wage data is always in demand by federal and local government, private researchers, labor unions, corporate management and a variety of other users. The information is used for many things including collective bargaining and preparing economic forecasts. The data is also a major ingredient in determining unemployment rates.

For the state government, covered employment data is the basis for actuarial studies and evaluation of the financial solvency of the state's unemployment insurance trust fund. Nationally, the Department of Commerce uses data from the report to estimate the total wage and salary component for national personal income and gross national product. State and county planners find this type of information useful.

State and federal laws have certain disclosure requirements that protect individual employers from being identified. Employment and wage data can not be released if the number of employers comprising an industry is less than four, or if a single employer provides more than 80% of that industry-county line total. Where these conditions exist, the line is either deleted or combined with another line in the report.

In addition to the WYO-47 the Research and Analysis Section also utilizes a Multicounty report to produce the Covered Employment Report. Because return of this form is not mandatory and because we want to have the most complete and accurate data possible, **WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE COMPANIES RECEIVING THE MULTICOUNTY MULTI-INDUSTRY EMPLOYER'S REPORT TO PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO FILL THEM OUT AND RETURN THEM.**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
July 1984	311.7	303.2	338.1	249.7	196.6	312.9	380.3
Annual % Change	4.1	3.8	4.2	5.3	0.8	4.2	6.3

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
July 1984	307.5	302.8	328.7	249.0	195.3	315.2	378.5
Annual % Change	3.1	3.7	1.7	5.3	0.7	4.4	6.4

EMPLOYERS PLEASE HELP US

We want to encourage anyone receiving questionnaires from the Employment Security Commission to please take ten minutes to fill them out and return them. Responses are kept confidential and no data is released that would allow you or your business to be identified. The information compiled from the survey is intended to be used by these employers as well as government officials and planners. Right now the state is authorized to publish monthly hours and earnings data for only two (mining and manufacturing) of the seven major industries. Our CES staff is working very hard to increase the sample size (presently its around 1,550 employers). Employer response is of utmost importance in helping to create an adequate sample. In addition to the employment levels now published for all industries, we also would very much like to publish the hours and earnings data for those other five industries.

WYOMING PER CAPITA INCOME RANKING DROPS TO 18TH IN 1983

During the past decade Wyoming's per capita income, as ranked among the states, has taken a roller coaster ride. From 1975, with a per capita income of $6,119 and 14th ranking, nationally, Wyoming's ranking climbed steadily to 4th place in 1980 and 1981. Then, on the downhill side, it dropped to 8th in 1982 and 18th in 1983 to $11,911, a mere two percent above the national average. This compares to 1981, when Wyoming's per capita income was 15 percent above the national level. Only Oklahoma, with a 1.0 percent decline, and Wyoming, down 2.5 percent, experienced an actual decline in per capita income in 1983 from 1982.

WYOMING AND U.S. PER CAPITA INCOME

	WYOMING				U.S.	
	% OF NAT. AVG.	RANK AMONG STATES	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YR.	PER CAP. PERS. INC.	PER CAP. PERS. INC.	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YR.
1975	105	14	7.8	6,119	5,842	7.2
1976	107	12	11.0	6,791	6,367	9.0
1977	108	11	11.0	7,535	6,984	9.7
1978	111	7	14.8	8,650	7,772	11.3
1979	114	5	13.9	9,850	8,651	11.3
1980	116	4	11.9	11,018	9,494	9.7
1981	115	4	9.9	12,111	10,544	11.1
1982	110	8	0.9	12,222	11,113	5.4
1983	102	18	- 2.5	11,911	11,685	5.1

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis
Prepared by: WESC Research and Analysis Section, August 1984

INDUSTRY TRENDS

Table 3 and the trends analyzed in this section are extracted from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.

In July, Contract Construction employment continued to post the highest private sector annual worker growth, up 1,700 workers or a 9 percent gain over July of 1983. Construction projects this year are concentrated on street and highway construction and repair. Local government employment is up sharply, 5,500 persons annually, due primarily to additional hiring for street and local construction projects. The Service industry saw employment decrease by 2,000 which is a 6 percent decline from a year ago. Trade, Manufacturing, Transportation, and Public Utilities; and Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate sectors reflect about the same employment levels as a year ago.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JUL 1984 [1]	JUN 1984 [1]	JUL 1983 [2]	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	262,056	270,600	272,493	- 3.2	- 3.8
Unemployment	13,497	14,420	22,145	- 6.4	- 39.1
Employed Labor Force	248,559	256,180	250,348	- 3.0	- 0.7
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law) [3]	191,100	194,600	191,116	- 1.8	0.0
b. Agriculture [3]	16,635	18,483	16,941	-10.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	5.2% 5.5%*	5.3% 5.4%*	8.1% 8.7%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.5% 7.5%*	7.4% 7.1%*	9.4% 9.5%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) [4]	1.6%	1.8%	3.7%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 561.17	$ 564.17	$ 522.08	- 0.5	7.5
Average Weekly Hours	43.2	43.7	41.6	- 1.1	3.8
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.99	$ 12.91	$ 12.55	0.6	3.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	14,024	19,433	39,996	- 27.8	- 65.0
a. Initial	1,759	2,042	3,364	- 13.9	- 47.7
Weeks Compensated	11,714	16,744	42,480	- 30.0	- 72.4
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,667,539	$ 2,380,512	$ 6,466,146	- 30.0	- 74.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 142.35	$ 142.17	$ 152.22	0.1	- 6.5
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,265	5,156	3,665	-36.7	-10.9
Non-Ag. Openings Received	3,745	4,888	2,533	-23.4	47.8
Non-Ag. Placements	2,868	4,430	3,160	-35.3	- 9.2
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 501.98	$ 503.73	$ 474.47	- 0.3	5.8
Average Weekly Hours	43.2	43.5	42.1	- 0.7	2.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 11.62	$ 11.58	$ 11.27	0.3	3.1
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	311.7	310.7	299.3	0.3	4.1
Producer Prices, All Commodities	312.0	311.4	303.2	0.2	2.9
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	303.2	302.0	292.0	0.4	3.8

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JUL 1984	JUN 1984	JUL 1983	%CHANGE JUN-JUL	%CHANGE JUL-JUL	JUL 1984	JUN 1984	JUL 1983	JUL 1984	JUN 1984	JUL 1983
Statewide	262,056	270,600	272,493	- 3.2	- 3.8	13,497	14,420	22,145	5.2	5.3	8.1
Albany	15,075	15,617	15,102	- 3.5	- 0.2	521	568	880	3.5	3.6	5.8
Big Horn	5,288	5,675	5,911	- 6.8	- 10.5	288	307	527	5.4	5.4	8.9
Campbell	17,673	18,506	20,284	- 4.5	- 12.9	751	1,009	1,515	4.2	5.5	7.5
Carbon	9,524	9,988	10,883	- 4.6	- 12.5	613	696	1,301	6.4	7.0	12.0
Converse	7,103	7,320	7,492	- 3.0	- 5.2	443	377	632	6.2	5.2	8.4
Crook	3,076	3,260	3,125	- 5.6	- 1.6	90	117	152	2.9	3.6	4.9
Fremont	18,038	19,318	18,743	- 6.6	- 3.8	1,556	1,693	1,959	8.6	8.8	10.5
Goshen	7,275	7,530	7,287	- 3.4	- 0.2	295	238	388	4.1	3.2	5.3
Hot Springs	3,030	3,186	3,027	- 4.9	0.1	121	169	172	4.0	5.3	5.7
Johnson	4,172	4,449	4,368	- 6.2	- 4.5	124	171	227	3.0	3.8	5.2
Laramie	34,896	36,466	36,470	- 4.3	- 4.3	1,400	1,374	2,297	4.0	3.8	6.3
Lincoln	6,533	6,822	6,387	- 4.2	2.3	536	632	717	8.2	9.3	11.2
Natrona	39,887	40,521	39,522	- 1.6	0.9	2,342	2,512	4,593	5.9	6.2	11.6
Niobrara	1,725	1,822	1,694	- 5.3	1.8	112	65	145	6.5	3.6	8.6
Park	18,044	17,693	17,652	2.0	2.2	611	690	716	3.4	3.9	4.1
Platte	3,897	4,162	4,180	- 6.4	- 6.8	236	233	356	6.1	5.6	8.5
Sheridan	14,277	14,804	14,027	- 3.6	1.8	746	830	897	5.2	5.6	6.4
Sublette	2,549	2,704	2,672	- 5.7	- 4.6	139	159	164	5.5	5.9	6.1
Sweetwater	19,753	20,549	22,601	- 3.9	- 12.6	1,337	1,108	2,425	6.8	5.4	10.7
Teton	10,885	10,362	10,623	5.0	2.5	267	309	363	2.5	3.0	3.4
Uinta	10,439	10,527	11,082	- 0.8	- 5.8	683	687	1,027	6.5	6.5	9.3
Washakie	5,383	5,598	5,554	- 3.8	- 3.1	152	224	414	2.8	4.0	7.5
Weston	3,534	3,721	3,807	- 5.0	- 7.2	134	251	278	3.8	6.7	7.3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 *(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	JUL 1984[2]	JUN 1984 [3]	JUL 1983	JUN 1984	JUL 1983
	Total	Total	Total	to JUL 1984	to JUL 1984
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	209.1	213.1	203.3	- 1.9	2.9
Manufacturing	8.6	8.2	8.4	4.9	2.4
Durable Goods	4.2	3.8	4.0	10.5	5.0
Nondurable Goods	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0	- 7.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	200.5	204.9	194.9	- 2.1	2.9
Mining	26.9	27.0	28.1	- 0.4	- 4.3
Contract Construction	21.0	22.5	19.3	- 6.7	8.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	16.8	16.8	16.6	0.0	1.2
Railroad Transportation	3.2	3.3	3.4	- 3.0	- 5.9
Transportation except Railroads	6.5	6.3	6.1	3.2	6.6
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	7.1	7.2	7.1	- 1.4	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	46.2	45.6	46.0	1.3	0.4
Wholesale Trade	8.8	8.7	8.7	1.1	1.1
Retail Trade	37.4	36.9	37.3	1.4	0.3
Food Stores	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.4	6.2	6.4	3.2	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	13.2	13.0	13.3	1.5	- 0.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.7	7.7	7.8	0.0	- 1.3
Services	34.3	34.4	36.3	- 0.3	- 5.5
Personal Services	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Medical & Other Health Services	6.5	6.4	6.5	1.6	0.0
Government	47.6	50.9	40.8	- 6.5	16.7
Federal Government	8.6	8.5	7.3	1.2	17.8
State & Local Government	39.0	42.4	33.6	- 8.0	16.1
State Government	12.3	12.5	12.4	- 1.6	- 0.8
Local Government	26.7	29.9	21.2	- 10.7	25.9

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	JUL 1984[2]	JUN 1984 [3]	JUL 1983	JUN 1984	JUL 1983
	Total	Total	Total	to JUL 1984	to JUL 1984
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	35.3	35.4	31.7	- 0.3	11.4
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.0	16.7
Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	33.9	34.0	30.5	- 0.3	11.1
Mining	5.4	5.3	4.8	1.9	12.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.8	4.7	4.2	2.1	14.3
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0
Contract Construction	2.8	2.8	2.3	0.0	21.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.2	2.2	2.4	0.0	- 8.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.8	9.4	9.2	4.3	6.5
Wholesale Trade	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	2.9
Retail Trade	6.2	5.8	5.7	6.9	8.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	- 5.6
Services	5.8	5.7	5.8	1.8	0.0
Government	6.2	6.9	4.2	- 10.1	47.6
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	5.5	6.2	3.5	- 11.3	57.1
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.8	32.1	29.4	- 4.0	4.8
Manufacturing	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	- 9.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.8	31.1	28.3	- 4.2	5.3
Contract Construction	2.3	2.4	2.0	- 4.2	15.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.4	3.7	3.8	- 8.1	- 10.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.5	7.3	7.0	2.7	7.1
Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.8	0.8	12.5	12.5
Retail Trade	6.6	6.5	6.2	1.5	6.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9
Services & Miscellaneous	5.7	5.9	4.9	- 3.4	16.3
Government	9.1	10.0	8.9	- 9.0	2.2
Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3
State & Local Government	6.7	7.6	6.6	- 11.8	1.5

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag. establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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